

**Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010: Privacy Protection and the Use of Social Security Numbers in the Child Nutrition Programs**

**Purpose:**

This instruction sets forth the policy for collection of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) in all Child Nutrition Programs.

**Scope:**

Sponsors participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and/or Special Milk Program (SMP).

**Description:**

Section 301 of the Act amends section 9(d)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(d) (1)) by removing the requirement that the adult household member who signs a household application for free and reduced-price meals also must provide his or her complete SSN, as a condition of eligibility. As amended by the Act, Section 9(d)(1) now requires that only the last four digits of the SSN must be provided on the application. The Act also removes the requirement that the SSN of each household member be collected to verify applications. The new requirements increase privacy protections.

Because Section 301 of the Act became effective on October 1, 2010, all household applications and supporting materials must be updated to reflect these requirements as soon as possible, but no later than July 1, 2011. It may be that State agencies, local educational agencies and institutions are not able to print all new materials for immediate use. However, State agencies must notify local educational agencies and institutions regarding the privacy protections and assist in developing mechanisms for implementation of the new statutory requirement.

**SOURCE:** HEALTHY, HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT OF 2010 (THE ACT), PUBLIC LAW 111-296, SECTION 301 OF THE ACT AMENDS SECTION 9(D)(1) OF THE RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT (42 U.S.C. 1758(D) (1)).